

Elementary Science

Academic content standard(s)

Standards (Elementary Science)

Earth systems – Develop an understanding of what makes up our planet.

Physics concepts – Explore physical phenomenon such as movement, forces and heat

Big Idea

The components of the earth form systems. These systems continually interact, affecting the shape of the Earth's surface both regionally and locally.

Learning Goals

Students will:

- Understand that the Earth's crust is broken up into huge plates
- Explore ways in which the plates could move around the earth
- Observe and explain convection currents in air and water

Success Criteria

I can:

- Describe the plates in the earth
- Explain why the plates move
- Explain 5 different things that happen to the earth when the plates move
- Draw or describe convection currents to show how convection relates to the movement of the earth's plates

Misconceptions students are likely to have about this topic

- Plates are rigid
- Rising lava forces the plates apart
- Ridges are fixed
- Convection drives plate tectonics



Considerations for Diverse Learners

Carefully consider wording, recognizing that there are multiple meanings for many common words. For example, in the Possible Misconceptions section the words “plates”, “fixed” and “drives” are used. For ELLS, these words might be confused with “dishes”, “repaired”, and “operates a vehicle”.